Telephony

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WHAT WILL TOMORROW BRING?

U S West is blazing its own trail to the future Sonet-based network

SIKES NAMED FCC CHAIRMAN

NTIA chief nominated by President Bush

GREENE REJECTS BELL INFO PLANS

Judge says RHCs would destroy independent info service providers

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INTEGRATING VOICE & DATA COMMUNICATIONS

There's no clear-cut trail leading to the future Sonet-based network. And the horizon is fraught with creative and distracting solutions. Leashing some of that Western Frontier spirit, U S West is blazing its own trail across the canyon that divides today's network from tomorrow's vision. Cover art by Laura M. Doyle

DEPARTMENTS

46 ADVERTISERS' INDEX

6 IN MY OPINION

47 MOVING AROUND INDUSTRY

32 NEW PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

NEWS OF THE WEEK

10 **GREENE REJECTS BELL INFO PLANS**
The judge issues a harsh statement, saying the RHCs would destroy independent information service providers

11 **RHCs UNITE ON MFJ LEGISLATION**
The companies have submitted a joint statement in support of a bill to lift MFJ restrictions, although some changes are sought

11 **HACKER REPROGRAMS SOUTHERN BELL SWITCH**
Florida customers calling a probation office are switched to New York dial-a-porn line; an investigation is launched

12 **MARANO ATTACKS MFJ RESTRICTIONS**
The Bellcore chief says limits on RHCs hurt U.S. research efforts and help foreign competition

FEATURES

17 **IS SONET FINALLY SLOWING DOWN?**
By Michael Warr. Standards proceedings for the synchronous optical network have moved at breakneck speeds. But some experts think the Sonet proceedings may now be losing steam

22 **WHAT WILL TOMORROW BRING?**
By James K. Conlisk. It's hard to imagine a graceful evolution to ISDN from today's chaotically diverse network. But U S West is blazing a trail toward that horizon

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The new VoiceFrame system serves as a communications controller that supports a variety of applications, including intelligent call routing based on database information. It is aimed not at telecommunications managers, but at the management information system side of the house, as a voice access link to existing computer databases.

The system, which will be tested in July and should be available in September, is geared primarily toward insurance companies, financial institutions and franchised industries, said Dan Nix, director of business development for Harris.

"It is designed for any customer that has a need for national sales support and has a large customer base," he said. "Fortune 1000 customers want a solution. They want to buy a solution."

And Harris believes VoiceFrame, based on the Harris 20-20 tandem switch, is that solution.

With VoiceFrame, incoming calls enter the system and are then interpreted and sent via VoiceLink—a "computer-to-switch umbilical cord"—to a host computer. A customer can expect to spend from $50,000 to $200,000 for a system with 300 to 400 ports, Nix said.

The system is not designed to be an addition to a private branch exchange, said Ron Derechailo, director of marketing for Harris, but to function as a separate operation.

Call routing is a typical application of the system, said Derechailo. For example, if a customer calls a business in search of an agent or retail outlet close to the office or to home, automatic number identification provided by the telecommunications network would identify the incoming call's location. When that information is fed into a computer database listing agents or outlets, the system can quickly determine where the nearest provider is and automatically forward the call to that office to be answered, he explained.

"This is a real opportunity for customers to differentiate their product services and develop a competitive advantage," Derechailo said.

Although ANI is currently available in only a limited number of cities via the long-distance network and in fewer locations on the local exchange network, Harris expects the market to grow rapidly, said Nix.

Harris plans to sell its system to MIS

continued on page 54

NARUC rate report released

The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners has released a report on basic exchange rates charged by the Bell operating companies in 48 states. Below is a sampling of the rates reported in the study. Listed by state, the rates are based on those in effect on December 31, 1988, for flat rate service within various rate groups used by one-party business and residential customers. There are many variations in the definition of services and NARUC cautions that direct comparisons should not be made.

State	Business	Residential
Alabama	36.73 to 55.08	14.86 to 19.61
Arizona	18.65 to 27.95	8.66 to 11.50
Arkansas	23.21 to 32.01 (urban)	11.11 to 15.31 (urban)
California	Flat rate service generally not available.	8.35
Colorado	19.20 to 30.78	7.82 to 10.74
Connecticut	27.08 to 34.85	9.81 to 12.40
Delaware	22.30 to 25.36	8.10 to 8.65
District of Columbia	11.48	14.94
Florida	19.80 to 29.10	7.30 to 10.65
Georgia	19.00 to 41.30	9.55 to 15.90
Idaho	26.08 to 31.16	15.78 to 17.26
Illinois	5.16 to 12.53 (message rate service in Chicago area only)	2.58 to 8.00
Indiana	31.93 to 47.40	9.85 to 13.17
Iowa	25.70 to 45.25	10.90 to 18.20
Kansas	13.80 to 32.35 (urban)	8.95 to 17.00 (urban)
Kentucky	28.10 to 47.76	11.17 to 16.55
Louisiana	28.68 to 41.90	10.97 to 15.05
Maine	30.20 to 31.86	10.51 to 12.46
Maryland	10.88 to 13.28	5.58 to 7.43
Massachusetts	17.80 to 31.28	6.94 to 11.40
Michigan	19.56 to 26.31	9.02 to 12.08
Minnesota	32.53 to 69.90	13.01 to 23.30
Mississippi	34.61 to 48.65	14.79 to 19.01
Missouri	17.10 to 53.95 (urban)	7.80 to 23.55 (urban)
Montana	35.52 to 38.38	13.73
Nebraska	36.40 to 37.55	14.10
Nevada	33.60	11.25
New Hampshire	24.09 to 45.08	9.77 to 15.51
New Jersey	14.70 to 16.30	6.75 to 8.19
New Mexico	33.65 to 51.47	12.00 to 17.47
New York	22.46 to 39.84 (where flat rate is available)	9.27 to 18.73
North Carolina	27.36 to 34.44	9.94 to 12.51
North Dakota	26.19 to 31.29	10.69 to 12.84
Ohio	17.61 to 46.50	9.11 to 16.23
Oklahoma	20.68 to 41.78 (urban)	9.47 to 13.59 (urban)
Oregon	38.50 to 49.40 (urban)	14.05 (urban)
Pennsylvania	10.00 to 22.00 (local area)	3.60 to 8.40 (local area)
Rhode Island	33.10 to 46.43	11.85 to 16.64
South Carolina	34.05 to 44.25	14.20 to 16.90
South Dakota	23.60 to 34.75	11.00 to 14.20
Tennessee	27.05 to 41.30	7.55 to 14.05
Texas	19.15 to 28.25 (urban)	8.15 to 11.05 (urban)
Utah	28.10	11.84
Vermont	27.38 to 50.98	11.59 to 18.39
Virginia	11.00 to 13.00	5.00
Washington	19.40 to 42.25	8.75 to 18.75
West Virginia	43.56 to 58.23	19.10 to 23.39
Wisconsin	16.50 (message rate service)	14.60 to 17.35
Wyoming	14.81 to 24.34	8.02 to 10.96